resources for provision of basic services to the urban poor. Further, it is indicated that projects with a total cost of Rs. 14583.91 crores have been approved by the Central Government under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of JNNURM relating to provision of basic services to the urban poor.

Extinction of lions and tigers

†*310. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lions and tigers are going to be included in the list of animals nearing extinction;

(b) if so, whether Government has formulated any effective scheme for their growth and steps have been taken for the protection of environment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Lions and tigers have been accordded highest statutory protection, considering their endangered status and have been placed under the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, since its enactment.

(b) and (c) Central Assistance is provided to States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Project Tiger" and "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", for protection and conservation of wild animals including tigers and lions. Other initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation of wild animals are given in the Statement. (Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to SQ 304 Part (c)

Prices of coal

†*311. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited shall undertake yearly review with a view to increasing prices of coal for selling the same to the power companies;

(b) if so, the reasons for increasing the prices of coal;

(c) whether increase in the policies of coal shall result in costly electricity and that the cost of products manufactured by using electricity shall also go up as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure that prices of coal do not go up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) With de-regulation of pricing of Coal with effect from 1/1/2000, Coal companies are fully empowered to fix the prices of Coal. Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies determine the prices of Coal keeping in view various factors including escalation of input prices, market situation, impact on consuming sectors, etc. The last revision of prices by Coal India Limited was done in June, 2004, *i.e.* more than 3 years back.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.